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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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DATE DISTR. 16 AUG

SUBJECT

Skoda Works, National Corporation,

Prague-Snichov

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- The Skoda Works at Prague-Smichov has about 2,000 men and women employees. The Workers' Militia consists of 600 men, all of whom are Communists, although some of them joined the Party only after the February 1948 coup. Of this number 500 are armed with rifles lark 144 and 145 from war booty stocks and 100 with Russian automatic rifles (sub-machine guns). The Militia is organized into 12 platoons of 50 men each. Training consists of the taking apart and reassembling of weapons. About 5 percent of the l'ilitia members are fanatics tho take the training seriously.
- 2. Deliveries to the USSR which were expected to make up 40 percent of total production have been cancelled and new customers are being sought. Contracts have been concluded for exports to Egypt, Persia, and Turkey.
- 3. A Russian order for parts for artillery captured in Gormany has already been executed; another order for various parts has not yet been delivered.
- The percentage of faulty products has been out to 8 percent. Last year 2 million Kcs. were lost through faulty production.
- 5. Employees' wages provide for only a very modest standard of living, despite the promises made to the workers by the present Government. The resulting disillusionment is reflected in a low morale among the workers.

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